

COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks on June 4, 2020, regarding the Chairman's emergency rule-making powers, the Chairman of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks issued "Emergency Rules Governing the Conduct of Remote Public Commission Meetings and Provisions for Remote Public Participation" effective June 23, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Emergency Rules can be found on the Commission's website at www.chicago.gov/ccl.

In line with the Emergency Rules, the regular meeting of the **Commission on Chicago Landmarks** on **Thursday, November 5, 2020**, will be a **virtual meeting simulcast to the general public via livestreaming**. The Commission on Chicago Landmarks meeting will begin at **12:45 p.m.**

The **Permit Review Committee** will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will also be a virtual meeting simulcast to the general public via livestreaming.

Members of the public may view the Commission's virtual meetings via livestream by selecting "Click here to access the live stream on the day of the meeting" on the Commission's website at www.chicago.gov/ccl. Verbal statements by the public will take place at the beginning of each meeting.

The Commission highly encourages members of the public to submit their comments in written form. Written comments must be received no later than 24 hours in advance of the Commission meetings. Comments should be sent to: ccl@cityofchicago.org. Written comments received after the deadline shall not be considered. For additional details regarding format, submission, or content, please see the Emergency Rules at www.chicago.gov/ccl.

Members of the public wishing to speak during the virtual meetings must register in advance by completing a form found at www.chicago.gov/ccl and emailing it to ccl@cityofchicago.org. Registration will open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 30 and will close either when the fifteen open spots have been allocated or by 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, whichever comes first.

Historic Preservation staff will communicate to members of the public who have signed up to speak the means by which they can participate remotely in the virtual meetings. Aldermen or their representatives wishing to submit comments or speak during the virtual meetings should contact Historic Preservation staff by 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.

Attached is a copy of the agendas for the Commission meetings.

Maurice D. Cox
Secretary

AGENDA
COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS
Regular Meeting – Thursday, November 5, 2020
Virtual Meeting
12:45 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

Regular Meeting of September 3, 2020

2. Final Landmark Designation

EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY HOUSE
6427 South St. Lawrence Avenue

WARD 20

3. Final Landmark Designation

ILLINOIS BELL BUILDING
225 West Randolph Street

WARD 42

4. Permit Review Committee Reports

Report on Projects Reviewed at the October 1, 2020, Permit Review Committee Meeting

Report on Permit Decisions by the Commission Staff for the Month of October 2020

5. Announcements

2019 Preservation Excellence Awards
Virtual Ceremony

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (For attendees, online check-in at 2:30 p.m.)

Location: See chicago.gov/ccl for link to livestreaming

6. Adjournment

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

Summary of Projects with Staff Recommendations, November 5, 2020

2. Final Landmark Recommendation

EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY HOUSE
6427 South St. Lawrence Avenue

WARD 20

Staff Recommendation—Staff recommends that

Pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago (the “Municipal Code”), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the “Commission”) has determined that the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House (the “Building”) is worthy of designation as a Chicago Landmark. On the basis of careful consideration of the history and architecture of the Building, the Commission has found that it satisfies the following two (2) criteria set forth in Section 2-120-620 of the Municipal Code:

- 1. Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*
- 3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*

I. BACKGROUND

The formal landmark designation process for the Building began on September 3, 2020, when the Commission approved a preliminary landmark recommendation (the "Preliminary Recommendation") for the Building as a Chicago Landmark. The Commission found that the Building meets two (2) of the seven (7) criteria for designation, as well as the integrity criterion, identified in the Chicago Landmarks Ordinance (Municipal Code, Section 2-120-580 *et seq.*). As part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission preliminarily identified the “significant historical and architectural features” of the Building as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building.

Also, as part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission adopted a Designation Report, dated September 3, 2020, the most current iteration of which is dated November 5, 2020, incorporated herein and attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Designation Report”). At its regular meeting of October 1, 2020, the Commission received a report incorporated herein and attached hereto as **Exhibit B** (the “Department of Planning and Development Report”) from Maurice D. Cox, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development, stating that the proposed landmark designation of the Building supports the City’s overall planning goals and is consistent with the City’s governing policies and plans.

On October 22, 2020, the Commission received written consent to landmark designation of the Building in a form dated October 21, 2020, and signed by Naomi Davis, founder and Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit organization Blacks In Green, the owner of the Building.

II. FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code, the Commission has reviewed the entire record of proceedings on the proposed Chicago Landmark designation, including the Designation Report and all of the information on the proposed landmark designation of the Building; and

WHEREAS, the Building is modest architecturally, but of monumental historic and memorial significance as the home of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. It was from this house that Emmett Till left to board a train with his great uncle to visit relatives in Mississippi in 1955. The 14-year-old Till was lynched during the trip; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Till's death and Mamie Till-Mobley's work were integral to the growth of the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Emmett Till's story is as important today as it was in 1955 to demonstrate the horrors of racism, segregation and white supremacy. Emmett Till's 1955 murder ignited the Civil Rights movement throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the death and funeral of Emmett Till in late August and early September 1955 were major early catalytic events in the nationally-important Civil Rights Movement in 1954 and 1955, the others being the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in May 1954 and Rosa Park's refusal to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1955; and

WHEREAS, the funeral and extended visitation for Emmett Till, held from September 3-6, 1955, at the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago (a designated Chicago Landmark), was a pivotal event in the history of the civil-rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Till's badly-mutilated body, seen in person by thousands of mourners during the funeral and visitation, and by millions more captured in photographs published in *Jet* magazine, shocked and angered those who saw it and served as a catalyst for political and social change in America; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley lived in the Building in the years leading up to Emmett's murder. Ms. Till-Mobley continued to live in the Building until 1962 while she worked tirelessly to advance the Civil Rights agenda and honor the legacy of her only child Emmett; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Till-Mobley traveled around the world to share her son's story, fighting for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Till-Mobley devoted her life to the work of eradicating racism and improving the quality of life for people of color; and

WHEREAS, the Building meets two (2) criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (3) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; now, therefore,

THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS HEREBY:

1. Adopts the recitals, findings and statements of fact set forth in the preamble and Sections I and II hereof as the findings of the Commission; and
2. Adopts the Designation Report, as revised, and dated this November 5, 2020; and
3. Finds, based on the Designation Report and the entire record before the Commission, that the Building meets the two (2) criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (3) of the Municipal Code; and
4. Finds that the Building satisfies the "integrity" requirement set forth in Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code; and
5. Finds that the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as follows:
 - All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building; and
6. Recommends the designation of the Building a Chicago Landmark.

3. Final Landmark Recommendation

ILLINOIS BELL BUILDING
225 West Randolph Street

WARD 42

Staff Recommendation—Staff recommends

Pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago (the “Municipal Code”), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the “Commission”) has determined that the Illinois Bell Building located at 225 W. Randolph Street (the “Building”) is worthy of Chicago Landmark designation. On the basis of careful consideration of the history and architecture of the Building, the Commission has found that it satisfies the following three (3) criteria set forth in Section 2-120-620 of the Municipal Code:

- 1. Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*
- 4. Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.*
- 5. Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*

I. BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of September 3, 2020, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks ("Commission") approved a "preliminary landmark recommendation" (the "Preliminary Recommendation") for designation of the Building as a Chicago Landmark. The Commission found that the Building appeared to meet three of the seven criteria for designation, as well as the integrity criterion, identified in the *Chicago Landmarks Ordinance* (Municipal Code of the City of Chicago, Section 2-120-580 et seq.). The Preliminary Recommendation, identified as **Exhibit A**, initiated the consideration process for further study and analysis of the possible landmark designation of the Building. As part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission preliminarily identified the significant historical and architectural features of the Building as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building; and
- The first floor lobby, as depicted and identified on Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein; and
- The surrounding plazas of the Building including the granite planters on the Franklin and Randolph Street elevations, as depicted and identified on Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein.

As part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission also adopted a Preliminary Summary of Information, dated September 3, 2020, and identified as **Exhibit B**. In a letter dated September 17, 2020, DPD, on behalf of the Commission, notified the owners of the Building, of the Preliminary Recommendation.

At its regular meeting of October 7, 2020, the Commission received the DPD Report, identified as **Exhibit C**, from Commissioner Maurice D. Cox of DPD, stating that the proposed landmark designation of the Building supports the City's overall planning goals and is consistent with the City's governing policies and plans.

In a letter dated August 12, 2020, the Commission officially requested the consent to the proposed landmark designation from the owner and contract purchaser of the Building. The Commission received consent for the proposed landmark designation from the owner on August 24, 2020 and the Commission received consent from the contract purchaser on August 26, 2020.

II. FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-120-650 of the Municipal Code, the Commission shall notify the owner of its determination with respect to the proposed Chicago Landmark designation within 45 days after receipt of the owner's consent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code, the Commission has reviewed the entire record of proceedings on the proposed Chicago Landmark designation, including the Preliminary Summary of Information, the DPD Report and all of the information on the proposed landmark designation of the Building; and

WHEREAS, the Building meets the three (3) criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (4) and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Building is a representation of the reinvestment in downtown Chicago, the Loop area in particular, by corporations in the 1960s. In contrast to many other American cities, Chicago saw a significant increase in downtown development by private entities during this time period; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Bell company was a major employer in Chicago, and Illinois as a whole. At its zenith in the early 1970s, the company employed roughly 36,000 people in the Chicago area alone and made important contributions to the advancement of technology in the telephone industry; and

WHEREAS, Chicago, and Illinois as a whole, has been on the forefront of telephone technology since the invention of the telephone. Chicago was one of the first major cities to have telephones, just one year after Alexander Graham Bell's invention; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Bell's research and development arm was critical in developing systems that are still used today, such as call waiting, speed calling, call forwarding, and three-way calling; and

WHEREAS, the Building is one of very few known examples of New Formalism as applied to a skyscraper in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the marble and granite façade materials of the Building are unique and key elements of the New Formalist style, which embraced the use of rich building materials as part of the nod to Classical architecture; and

WHEREAS, the Building is distinguished from other New Formalist examples by its strong vertical columns, projecting level roof slab, and cantilevered first-story colonnade, which creates a street-level plaza; and

WHEREAS, the Building was designed by one of Chicago's oldest and most influential

architecture firms, Holabird & Root (previously Holabird & Roche); and

WHEREAS, under its original partners, William Holabird and Martin Roche, Holabird and Roche was an important architectural firm associated with the development and refinement of the Chicago style, a significant development in the history of world architecture; and

WHEREAS, John Holabird and John Wellborn Root, Jr., second-generation partners of Holabird and Roche and the successor firm of Holabird and Root, are significant for their sophisticated and intricately planned buildings, whether Classical Revival designs such as the Palmer House or Art Deco skyscrapers such as the Chicago Board of Trade and Palmolive Building; and

WHEREAS, at the time the firm designed the Bell Building, Holabird & Root was in the process of redefining itself as an innovative powerhouse a generation after designing some of Chicago's most ground-breaking buildings. In 1974, the firm received Chicago's highest architectural honor for the design for an Illinois Bell building in Northbrook, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; now, therefore,

THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS HEREBY:

1. Incorporates the preamble and Sections I and II into its findings; and
2. Adopts the Final Designation Report, as revised, and dated this 5th day of November 2020; and
3. Finds, based on the Final Designation Report, the DPD Report, and the entire record before the Commission, that the Building meets the three (3) criteria for landmark designation set forth in Sections 2-120-620 (1), (4) and (5) of the Municipal Code; and
4. Finds that the Building satisfies the "integrity" requirement set forth in Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code; and
5. Finds that the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as follows;

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building; and
 - The first floor lobby, as depicted and identified on Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein; and
 - The surrounding plazas of the Building including the granite planters on the Franklin and Randolph Street elevations, as depicted and identified on Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein.
6. Recommends that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark.